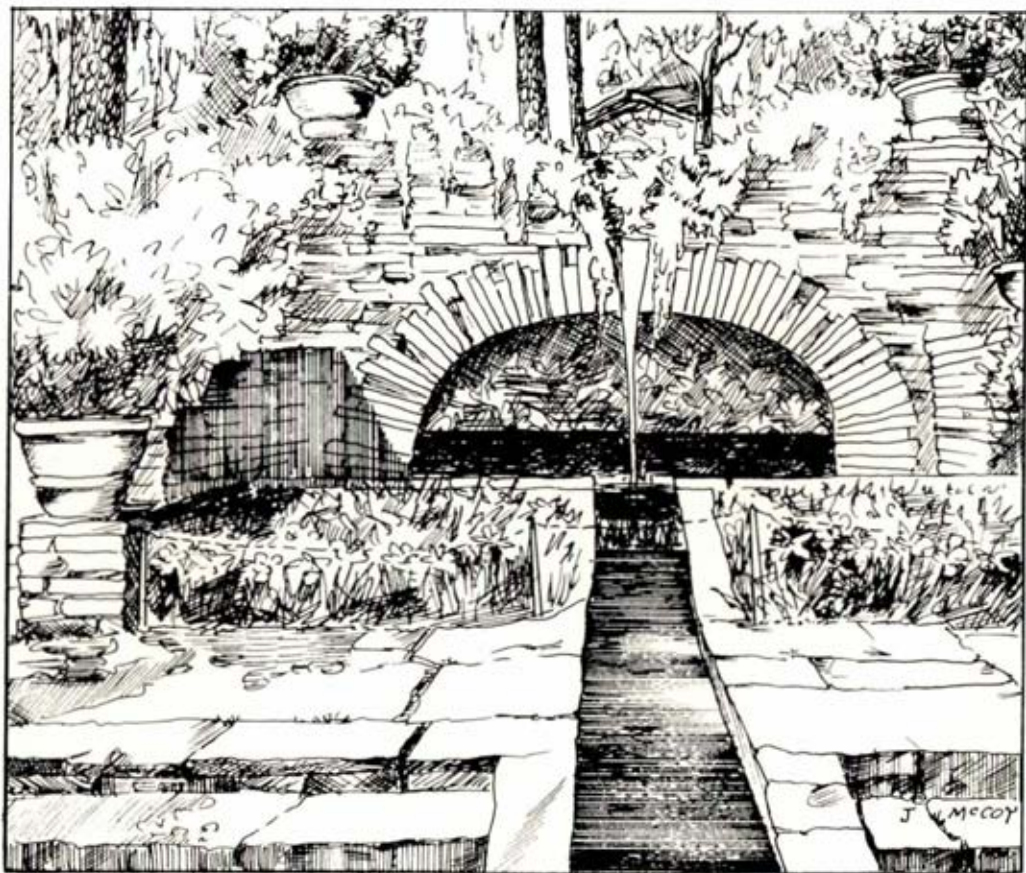


Carolina Camellias



The Grotto, Bellingrath Gardens, Mobile, Alabama

In Memoriam

ALLISON J.
"PREACHER" PARSONS



On August 8, 1983, Allison J. "Preacher" Parsons' body was put to rest, but his spirit and beautification that he created will live forever.

"Preacher" was a charter member of the Virginia Camellia Society. From the beginning, his leadership inspired us to achieve only the best. His love for all things beautiful was instrumental in his appointment by the Mayor of Norfolk as chairman of the Norfolk Botanical Garden Commission. He had the ability to generate the necessary funds for the creation of the gardens and was the main factor in the garden's success.

"Preacher", a charter member of the American Camellia Society, was there at the concept of our National Headquarters, "Massee Lane". He was one of the founders who created the foundation to help support our National Headquarters. Having served as both a Director and President of our National Organization, along with his continuous imaginative skills, "Preacher" helped develop one of the finest horticultural organizations in the world.

"Preacher's" knowledge and friendship will be missed, but his achievements will live on to remind us of his greatness.

Carolina Camellias

Published three times annually — Winter, Spring, Fall — for the members of the South Carolina, North Carolina and the Virginia Camellia Societies.

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Editor's Page



"The old order changeth, giving way to the new," says the poet. I do not remember who the poet is or even the name of the poem, but it really doesn't matter here. It is just a good way of describing what is happening to South Carolina and North Carolina Camellia Societies. I'm sure all members of these two societies are aware that **something** is going on. You might not know exactly what. You should. If one is uninformed, he imagines the worst. Let's take one society at a time.

For some years, the financial health of South Carolina Camellia Society had been deteriorating. Membership had been dropping at the rate of about 10 percent per year. Cost of everything, especially for publishing Carolina Camellias, had been rising.

The Officers and Directors realized that the society was getting deeper and deeper into financial quick sand, despite all efforts to raise money such as plant auctions and other activities. Efforts had been made to cut the cost of publishing Carolina Camellias: the size was reduced from 32 pages to 28; the colored camellia on the cover was replaced by a pen and ink drawing; consideration given to cut number of copies printed from 1000 to 750. Nothing seemed to help! The point was reached where the society could not continue to publish

Carolina Camellias. There just would not be funds to pay the printer.

At Myrtle Beach this year, South Carolina Camellia Society Officers and Directors unanimously agreed to propose to the members that Carolina Camellias, along with all assets and membership, be turned over to the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. In effect, South Carolina Camellia Society would merge with Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. The offer was subsequently made to Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, contingent upon approval of the members. The offer was accepted under this condition.

Now, members of South Carolina Camellia Society, **please** go ahead and pay your dues as usual. No change can be made until well into 1984, and every nickel is needed. South Carolina Camellia Society is going ahead and pay for this issue and the winter issue which will be coming out in early 1984. Send your check to your new treasurer. Mr. Stanley Holtzclaw, 314 Morrow Street, Greer, SC 29651.

As far as North Carolina Camellia Society goes, it no longer exists. The society has been dissolved. Those of you who have already mailed in dues will have these dues returned. Membership in the society had dropped to 88 members, down from 131 in 1980. Financially, the so-

ciety found itself unable to meet its obligations. The members were polled, and the overwhelming opinion was that the society should disband and turn over assets to Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. This was done when Harris Newber, treasurer of North Carolina Camellia Society, presented to the president of Atlantic Coast Camellia Society a check for \$204.61 at the ACCS convention in Myrtle Beach. Now, I know you are wondering: "What about "Carolina Camellias". Does this mean that I will no longer receive it?" The answer is "yes" and "no". You will receive the next issue

which will be coming out in early 1984. This is a gift from South Carolina Camellia Society. After that, you will have to be a member of Atlantic Coast Camellia Society to receive the magazine, assuming that the members of South Carolina Camellia Society vote to merge with ACCS. So, **please** come on and join Atlantic Coast. Why don't you do it **right now!** If you put it off, you might forget. Go get your check book, make out a check for \$9.00 to Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, and mail it to Mr. Latimer McClintock, 1325 East Barden Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211.

SHOW DATES

Columbia, SC — State Fair Grounds	Oct. 22-23, 1983
Greenwood, SC — Cross Creek Mall	Oct. 29, 1983
Norfolk, VA — Greenbriar Mall	Nov. 5, 1983
Charleston, SC — Magnolia Gardens	Nov. 6, 1983
Charleston, SC — First Fed. S & L, 34 Broad St.	Nov. 19-20, 1983
Aiken, SC — Kennedy Jr. High School	Jan. 22-23, 1984
Charleston, SC — Citadel Mall	Jan. 28, 1984
Charlotte, NC — Eastland Mall	Feb. 4-5, 1984
Columbia, SC — Columbia Mall	Feb. 11-12, 1984
Wilmington, NC — Independence Mall	Feb. 25, 1984
Fayetteville, NC — Cross Creek Mall	Mar. 3-4, 1984
Greensboro, NC — Four Seasons Mall	Mar. 10-11, 1984
Norfolk, VA — Norfolk Botanical Gardens	Mar. 31-Apr. 1, 1984

ABOUT THE COVER DRAWING

This is a drawing of the "Grotto", the most famous landmark in Bellingrath gardens. This estate, begun in 1917 as a fishing camp by Mr. Walter D. Bellingrath, is located about 20 miles south of Mobile, Alabama.

Mr. Bellingrath loved flowers of all kinds, and was especially fond of camellias. He purchased hundreds of specimen camellia plants for the gardens, some more than 100 years old. Mr. Bellingrath enjoyed telling the history of his "aristocrats of

flowers" and loved to relate to anyone who would listen, where and how he acquired his various treasured specimens.

In 1956, after the passing of Mr. Bellingrath, the trustees of the Bellingrath-Morse Foundation (a trust formed by him to perpetuate the care and operation of the gardens) approved a plan to develop a four acre camellia garden with new varieties of camellias. About 800 distinct varieties of camellias were planted there in 1957-58.

Presidents' Messages

SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY



This is not the usual President's letter that we are accustomed to reading, but I am afraid that the time of concern has finally arrived. The decreasing membership, the increasing cost of print, mail, etc. has caught up with us. The Board of Directors has been concerned for some time. We all recognize that our publication, "Carolina Camellias", is costing more to publish and distribute than is our income. Without this publication, we feel we lost our means to further the interest in camellias.

I will propose that the Board of Directors recommend that the South Carolina Camellia Society merge with the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. This way, if North Carolina and Virginia, the other two active societies that receive "Carolina Camellias" should follow suit, then the Atlantic Coast Society will have enough members and be strong enough to continue publication of the magazine. By merging with the Atlantic Coast Society, we would turn over all of our assets and membership to the Atlantic Coast Society.

Of course, the membership of the South Carolina Society has to address to and vote on this most important issue. Every member will be receiving a letter detailing the proposal as well as when we will vote. The earliest that any of this could take place would be some time in the first half of 1984.

All of this is the recommendation of the Board of Directors and only that. We, your officers, will certainly follow the dictates of the membership and look forward to any ideas and alternatives.

Geary Serpas, President

NORTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY



For those of us who grow our camellias out doors, it has been a rough year. First, the wet, cold spring followed by a hot, dry summer. Such are the trials of camellia lovers.

This will be my last president's letter. All indications are that the members have decided to take the recommendations of the officers and directors and disband.

It's always sad to see an organization die, but let's hope that we will move on to bigger and better things. It is possible if we all support the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society.

Roger Martin, President

VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY



Thank you for your confidence in electing me to be your president for the coming year. I assure you that I will do my best to continue the success of our society.

On August 6th, we lost one of our greatest and most faithful camellia lovers, "Preacher" parsons. He was the backbone of our society for more than 40 years. He will be greatly missed. Our sincere sympathy goes to his dear wife, Ella.

Following the mild winter, we have an outstanding crop of air-layers (about 1200) which have now been transplanted into containers. The sale of these air-layers creates great interest, making it possible to furnish members and friends with the best varieties.

Our fall show will be held at Greenbriar Mall on November 5th. Be sure to begin gibbing so that we may have good blooms for this show. Also, keep in mind that plants should be well watered when buds have been gibbed.

We are looking forward to a successful camellia season and seeing beautiful blooms and good friends.

E.M. (Gene) Worrell, President



Shangri-la

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THE AGONIZING REAPPRAISAL

By
Bill Donnan

You know the old story. It's happening with increasing frequency these days. The kids have all, long since, gotten married and had children of their own. Grandma and Grandpa are in their late 60's. They no longer want or need the excessive care of a large home and yard. They sell out and buy a condominium. Well, what happens to a camellia hobbyist when he sells his home and moves into a condominium? Our experience might not be typical, but it might give some of you people who are thinking of making the change some ideas on how to cope.

Ours was no "spur of the moment" idea. We had seen this particular condo unit several years prior to buying it. Then when it came on the market again we purchased it on a six-month escrow. Thus we had some time to "gear up" for the change. Our new condo has a 50 foot by 15 foot patio. Room for about twenty camellias in containers. My toughest job was to pick and choose among over 300 plants in my collection. Some of my favorites were huge specimen plants growing in the ground. They were too large to dig out so I purchased new ones and put them in ceramic tubs. Some of my favorites were already growing in the large ceramic tubs and they were easily moved onto the patio. Several of my favorites were growing in the ground but were small enough for me to dig out and place into containers. Here is what I ended up with on the patio of the condominium. 'Nuccio's Ruby'; 'Nuccio's Pearl'; 'Nuccio's Jewel';

'Fimbriata'; 'Commander Mulroy'; 'Margaret Davis'; 'E. G. Waterhouse Var'; 'Twilight'; 'Garden Glory'; 'Adolphe Audusson Special'; 'Grand Prix'; 'Daikagura'; 'Jean Clere'; 'Elizabeth Weaver'; 'Arcadia'; 'Hody Wilson'; 'Ave Maria'; 'Shuchuka'; 'Bow Bells'; and 'Yuletide'. Please note that they are NOT ALL FORMAL DOUBLES!

You can imagine my sorrow at having to say "goodbye" to a twenty foot high 'Buddah' which had won me a lot of hardware at the shows! I said; "So Long" to three super 'Grand Slams' and to 'Alice Wood' (my first successful graft and now with a four inch diameter trunk!). "So Long" to 'K.O. Hester'; 'E.G. Waterhouse'; 'Purity'; 'Hit Parade'; 'Debutante'; 'Finlandia'; 'Glen-40'; and 'Kramer's Supreme' all of which were over 8 feet high! Oh well! The move had its compensations. I didn't have to battle the crab grass; the leaves; the outside painting; the lawn mowing; the flea beetles; and the tree trimming! Furthermore, I was elected to the Gardening Committee of the condominium. Thus, I immediately set about to transform the outside ground landscaping into something with some camellias in the plantings. When I arrived on the committee the condo complex had only two camellias amongst hundreds of other shrubs and trees. We now have over 25 camellias thriving on the property. Some of these were given to me; some were won at raffles; some I have purchased. To name several, they are: 'Nuccio's Gem'; 'Glen 40 var.'; 'Tom Thumb'; 'Little Suzy' (A cutting I got from Jim

McCoy!); 'Betty's Beauty'; 'Kothojimi'; 'Misty Moon'; 'Eago'; 'Asakura'; 'Enishi'; 'Namban Koh'; 'Tiffany'; 'Little Bo Peep'; 'Moonlight Bay'; 'Ville De Nantes'; 'Ed Combatalade'; 'South Lake White'; 'Betty Ridley'; and 'Pink Perfection'. (I can't think of them all!) Besides this, I have planted some twenty azaleas, eight of which are Satsukies, and about 60 Impatiens. The beauty of all this is that the regular contract gardeners for the condo do all of the watering, feeding, weeding, raking, pruning, etc. and all I do is plant and putter around!

What happened to the rest of my camellia collection? All those plants growing in the ground stayed with the home. (I replaced the four plants which I had dug up with some of my container grown plants.) Most of my other container plants were moved out to my children's homes. One of my sons took 50 plants and we planted them in his large yard. I still give those some tender loving care when we are out that way. I gave away about 25 plants in the one gallon cans to the different camellia societies for their raffles.

How do I keep busy having been an avid gardener for the past 30 years? Well, there is this Condo Gardening Committee but that does not satisfy my yen to get my finger nails dirty. I spend one morning each week at the Huntington Botanical Gardens doing volunteer work in the Greenhouses. This is a real joy since I can re-pot to my heart's content. Then, last but not least, I have a vegetable garden and berry patch up on some waste ground at the Nuccio's Nurseries. This gives me an excuse to go up there at least once a week to water and weed the vegetable patch and admire my berry bushes, try to catch the gophers, and shoot the breeze with some of the other "old Codgers" hanging around the nursery. Once in a while we break out a bottle of vino and argue the relative merits and demerits of C. Chrysantha and the new Yunnan retics. So you see, if you play your cards right you can have the "Best of Both Worlds". No real chores which **HAVE TO BE DONE** and yet a most perfect and satisfying regime as a condominium camellia hobbyist!

CAMELLIA JAPONICAS

CAMELLIA SASANQUAS

LAUREL LAKE GARDENS AND NURSERY, INC.

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Phone 919-525-5155

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THE EFFECTS OF VARYING CONCENTRATIONS OF SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE ON GRAFTING *CAMELLIA JAPONICA* 'DEBUTANTE'

Lawrence E. Hollar, W. H. Ridings, and L. W. Baxter, Jr.¹

Abstract: Varying concentrations (1, .5, .25, .125%) of sodium hypochlorite were tested as possible disinfectant soaks for camellia scions. All concentrations except at .125% were completely toxic to the scions. The .125% sodium hypochlorite solution delayed healing of grafts and was only 10% successful.

There is frequently some mortality during camellia grafting due to infection by a strain of the fungal pathogen, *Glomerella cingulata* (7). During the grafting process, wax paper cups or glass jars are placed over the graft union to promote healing and this enhances infection because of the high humidity and free water condensate (6).

Organic fungicides, such as ferbam and captan (7), and benomyl (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) have been valuable in protecting wounded camellia tissue by immersing the scions in fungicidal solutions prior to grafting; these baths are the current commercial recommendations (5). This practice serves as both an eradicated and protective measure to enhance aseptic conditions during grafting. Sodium hypochlorite, the active ingredient in common household bleach, is commonly used in phytopathological laboratory procedures as a disinfectant. It was reasoned by the authors that sodium hypochlorite might be as effective as organic fungicides. Various concentrations of sodium hypochlorite were tested to determine whether or not it is phytotoxic to camellia

scions and/or stock.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sixty container-grown (6-inch Lerio pots) 3- to 5-year-old *Camellia sasanqua* seedlings were held in a greenhouse at 21 C (70 F) for 1 month until all were in an active stage of vegetative growth. Then the plants were divided into six different treatments, ten replicates each. The seedlings were distributed randomly among the treatments to avoid any influence of understock age in the results. Aqueous solutions of sodium hypochlorite at concentrations of 10,000 ppm (= 1%), 5000 ppm, 2500 ppm, and 1250 ppm were used to treat the scions. A benomyl suspension of 500 ppm served as one control and tap water served as a second control.

The stock were cut back to a height of 8 centimeters (about 3 inches) and cleft grafts were made according to accepted grafting procedures (8). Scions of *Camellia japonica* 'Debutante' were collected early on a cool morning, wrapped in moistened paper towels, sealed in plastic bags and stored in a cooler at 3 C (37 F) until treated and grafted that day. The individual scions were pruned so as to have at least a mature terminal bud and two leaves. The scions for each treatment were immersed in the respective solutions for 10 minutes, but not rinsed prior to grafting. Prior to grafting, an inch layer of clean river sand was placed on the surface of the plant growth substrate in each container.

¹Graduate Student, Department of Horticulture; Asst. Professor and Professor, respectively, Department of Plant Pathology and Physiology, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29631.

Immediately after grafting, the stock was wrapped with a rubber grafting band to maintain contact between understock and scion. The replicates were randomly arranged (random block design). A 16-ounce wax paper cup was inverted over the grafted plant and pressed into the sand until the lip was covered. The container was then flooded with water to ensure an airtight seal around the cup. The greenhouse environment was thermostatically controlled at approximately 21 C (70 F). The grafts were checked weekly until callus formation was noted. After callus initiation, the scions were checked twice weekly. After each examination, the cups were again inverted over the graft, pressed into the sand and watered in to reestablish an airtight seal. After callus formation had begun at the graft union, a flap was cut into the bottom of the

inverted cup to begin an acclimatization process of the graft to the greenhouse atmosphere. As scions initiated growth, larger portions of the cup bottoms were cut away. When sufficient growth had occurred to indicate a successful graft, the entire bottom of the cup was removed. The unsuccessful grafts in each treatment were visually checked for presence of the pathogen *Glomerella cingulata* by making a small vertical cut down the cleft cut exposing the wood. Any noticeable lesions (wood necrosis) would have indicated that a fungus, not the treatment, could have caused the graft failure.

Data were recorded on the date of first callus formation, date of first scion growth, and final number of successful grafts, and the grafts were judged as being either strong or weak.

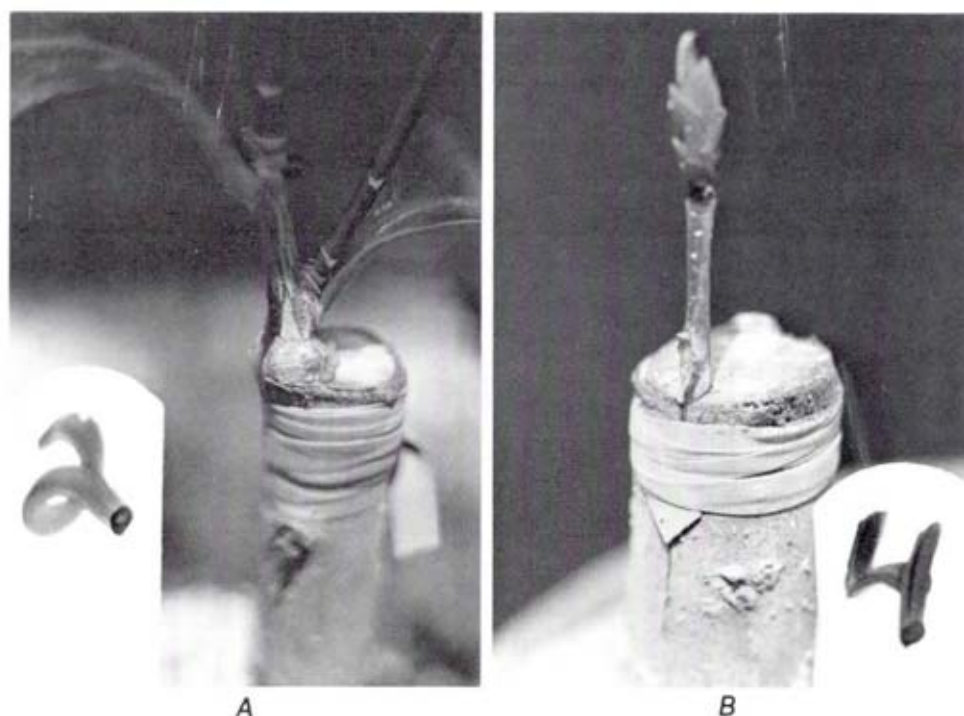
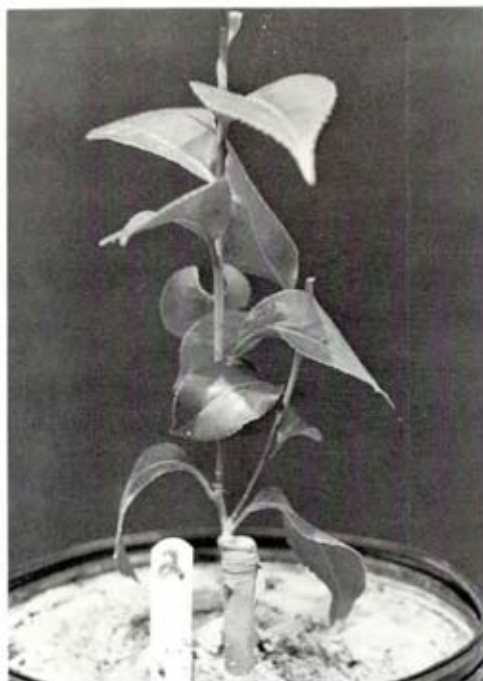


Fig. 1. Comparison of the amount of callus formation between control (500 ppm benomyl-A) and 5000 ppm sodium hypochlorite treatment (B).



A



B

Fig. 2. Comparison of the amount of scion growth between two of the successful grafts, (A) 500 ppm benomyl and (B) 1250 ppm sodium hypochlorite.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Of the six treatments, only the water control, the benomyl (500 ppm) control, and sodium hypochlorite (1250 ppm) treatment had successful grafts (Table 1). The two controls provided the only commercially acceptable levels of grafts (70% water, 60% benomyl) (Table 1). The low graft success (10%) with the sodium hypochlorite treatment (1250 ppm) indicated that more successful grafts possibly could be obtained at lower concentrations of sodium hypochlorite than 1250 ppm.

One of the treatments (benomyl, 500 ppm) accelerated callus formation and scion growth slightly (by 1 week) compared to the water control (Table 1). The sodium hypochlorite treatments not only greatly reduced the grafting success, but the limited callus forma-

tion was delayed by approximately 3 weeks compared to the water control (Table 1). The time between initial callus formation and subsequent scion growth was also delayed by 14 days (Table 1). These results suggest that this treatment would be unacceptable to commercial growers. Callus formation was good on all successful grafts, but there was no callus development at the higher sodium hypochlorite concentrations (Fig. 1). The amount of scion growth with the lowest sodium hypochlorite treatment was considerably less than that of either control, probably due to phytotoxicity (Fig. 2). Examination of unsuccessful grafts failed to reveal any symptoms of fungal invasion (Fig. 3). With the 2500 ppm, 5000 ppm, and 10,000 ppm sodium hypochlorite treatments, a severe basal chlorosis was observed on leaves

prior to their abscission. The chlorosis began at the base of the midvein and spread interveinally up the leaf blade. This suggests the possibility of a systemic nature of these higher concentrations of sodium hypochlorite.

The results revealed that sodium hypochlorite, at these concentrations, is not a suitable substitute for currently recommended fungicidal soaks used during camellia grafting. Further experiments should be conducted to evaluate both the phytotoxicity of lower concentrations of sodium hypochlorite to camellia scions and, more importantly, its efficacy as a fungal disinfectant at lower concentrations. Although further experiments on the phytotoxicity of lower concentrations of sodium hypochlorite to camellia scions may be more definitive, it is reasoned by the authors that these lower concentrations may not be adequate as disinfectants for commercial use.



*Vertical cut of grafting site showing the absence of a lesion (lesions at this point are usually caused by the fungal pathogen **Glomerella cingulata**).*

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Table 1. The effect of sodium hypochlorite on callus formation, scion growth, and number of successful grafts of *Camellia japonica* 'Debutante' onto *C. sasanqua* seedling stock.

Treatment	Callus formation (began after day)	Scion growth (began after day)	Total number of successful grafts		%
			strong	weak	
Water	42	63	5	2	70
500 ppm benzyl benodanil	35	56	4	2	60
10,000 ppm sodium hypochlorite	0	0	0	0	
5,000 ppm sodium hypochlorite	0	0	0	0	
2500 ppm sodium hypochlorite	0	0	0	0	
1250 ppm sodium hypochlorite	63	98	1	0	10

WHAT'S NEW IN CALIFORNIA

Dr. Bob Withers Victoria, Australia

Ed. Note: Reprinted from the June 1983 issue of the newsletter of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Camellia Research Society.

During my recent visit to California to attend the International Camellia Society Congress in Sacramento, I had the pleasure of meeting many of the leading camellia breeders in that country and of seeing many of their recently raised cultivars.

David Feathers at Lafayette continues to grow and evaluate large number of seedlings and many of the new ones should soon become available. I brought back a number of colour slides of the best for inspection by Erica and Neville McMinn with a view to importing some of the more interesting varieties.

One of the most interesting, which created a lot of discussion among overseas visitors was a 'Lasca Beauty' seedling No. 2027, a large semi-double flower, very pale pink, almost white in the centre, deepening in colour towards the

edge of the petals. Another 'Lasca Beauty' seedling with flowers 6 inches in diameter, had beautiful semi-double flowers a much deeper pink in colour than its parent. Yet another 'Lasca Beauty' seedling that should become popular has large incomplete double flowers, medium pink in colour, and has been named 'Owen Pearce'.

An unnamed white reticulata hybrid has semi-double flowers 5 inches in diameter and is a cross between a white japonica and a reticulata hybrid.

'Joyce Connell' is a 'Buddah' seedling more than 6 inches in diameter, semi-double but with heaped up petals. An attractive dark pink in colour.

Much darker in colour, perhaps scarlet or dark salmon red is 'Harry M. Bloom', with large semi-double flowers. It is a cross between salve-

nensis 'Apple Blossom' and reticulata 'Crimson Robe'.

Among the new japonicas was a very attractive single with 5 large wide petals pale pink in colour. The seedling of unknown parentage was 3½ to 4 inches in diameter.

No. 4099 is a large formal double with a bud centre, white with a red flush and darker red stripes.

'Freckles' is a somewhat similar seedling but with more white in the petals. It is a formal double with a bud centre, white, with red markings.

'Graceland', named after the home of Elvis Presley, is a chance, japonica seedling, medium in size with flowers formal double with a bud centre, light pink in colour deepening to a darker pink towards the edge of the petals.

Finally, David Feathers has raised a number of granthamiana hybrids. One semi-double seedling has flowers dark pink to red in colour. Another has single flowers, white in the middle, deepening to a medium pink at the edge of the petals. A third has red incomplete double flowers with a carnation centre.

At Oakland in recent years, Frank Pursel has introduced a prodigious number of beautiful large new reticulata seedlings. In Frank's garden, I was to see a magnificent large plant of 'Mary Stringfellow', a cross between 'Cornelian' and 'Mrs. D.W. Davis' covered with very large bright pink semi-double flowers. 'Woodford Harrison', ('Cornelian' x 'Mrs. D.W. Davis') x 'Cornelian' has very large, deep rose, red veined semi-double flowers. 'James McCoy', 'Cornelian' x 'Brigadoon', has very large deep burgandy-red semi-double flowers.

Two of the best are formal doubles, 'Mary Kay', a cross between 'Crimson Robe' and 'Jean Pursel', has very large pale pink for-

mal double flowers. 'Margaret Bernhardt' has similar parentage and has large to very large, rose-red formal double flowers.

For those of you who like variegated flowers, watch for 'Dick Goodson, variegated'.

At the Sacramento Show, one of Frank's seedlings, 'Blair Brown', named after Brownie's daughter, won best seedling. This seedling has large medium pink, incomplete double flowers with wavy petals.

Moving south to the Los Angeles area, Meyer Piet of Arcadia introduced 'Emma Gaeta' in 1979. It has very large semi-double flowers deep rose pink in colour, with folded upright centre petals. I was to see the variegated form, introduced by Meyer Piet in the following year, a very beautiful flower.

Bill Goertz, in 1981, introduced 'Nancy Reagan', named after the wife of the U.S. President. It has very large medium rose pink semi-double flowers, and is somewhat similar to 'Elizabeth Astles'. 'Nancy Reagan' has already been imported into Australia.

'Mrs. Woodrow Hathorn' was impressive with large dark red formal double flowers. 'Rudolph' had small, dark red, informal double flowers with a carnation centre. Destined to become a very popular introduction, 'Katie' was named after Julius Nuccio's mother. It has very large, beautiful salmon rose pink semi-double flowers and has already been introduced into Victoria and South Australia.

The latest introduction in the gemstone series, and equally attractive, is 'Nuccio's Cameo', a medium sized formal double pink flower. 'Carter's Sunburst Blush' is a sport of 'Carter's Sunburst'. It has large incomplete double flowers, with petals pale pink and striped deeper pink with a white border.

Finally, the seedling that impressed me most was a cross between 'Maroon and Gold' and Kuro Tsubaki'. The informal double flowers were large, and very dark red in colour, similar to the red of 'Kuro Tsubaki'. The centre petals had white markings as if sprinkled

with ice cream. I was told that this seedling will not be named, but an even better sister seedling will be called 'Cherries Jubilee'.

Many of the above seedlings will be well worth waiting for, and worthy additions to our collections.

A VISIT WITH THE BLANCHARDS

James McCoy

Fayetteville, NC

When he came to Fayetteville in July, Ken Blanchard invited me to come visit him and see what he was doing camelliawise. I told him that I would. But it was not until September 6, that I was able to make the trip. I'm glad I waited, because when I got there, the apples, grapes, and figs were ripe.

Ken and Sudie live about two miles east of downtown Wallace. Their home is on a slight rise above the highway, and the lot is wooded, or the part where the house is located is wooded. I should not call it a lot, because "A lot" brings to mind a parcel of land about 100 by 200 feet or thereabouts. Ken's spread is considerably bigger than that. I believe that what I saw was just a small part of a large farm. Anyway, let me tell you about Ken's activities, camelliawise, and otherwise.

We first went out to the side and front yards to see Ken's "new" camellias. I call them "new" camellias although many of them seem to be 20 or 30 years old. Ken has changed old camellias into new camellias. How did he do it? Very simple, or at least Ken says that it is. Actually, he uses the high graft and/or the approach graft process. He would select a large camellia that he wasn't satisfied with for some reason, one that had a fork or a branch reasonably close

to the ground, and would graft on this branch. He would leave the main trunk of the plant to feed the roots until his graft had taken, and had grown enough foliage to take over the job of feeding the roots. He says that if you don't leave some foliage, every single feeder root will die. He admits that the graft might take and that feeder roots would develop again, but he is firm in his conviction that you would be "setting back" your graft. One thing for sure, I saw numerous new camellias on old root stocks, grafted in this manner, and they were reasonably well shaped plants. It wouldn't take much imagination to see that in a couple more years, he was going to have large, bushy, well shaped, new camellias where he used to have old, who-would-give-a-second-glance camellias.

Another thing that Ken is doing is experimenting with virus. He is trying to find out, for one thing, if you can take a plant with poor variegation and put a "good strain" of the virus in it and get a beautifully variegated camellia. He is also attempting to put variegation in many of his large outside plants. He tells about a large, solid colored 'Guilio Nuccio' that he has. He says that it produces "bang-up" flowers and a high percentage have the 3 or 4 rabbit ears. He says: "But you know a straight 'Guilio Nuccio' will never

get very far. A good variegated one in a show will sometimes win for you. Also, I like the variegated blooms because you can see them better in the yard." Goodbye solid colored 'Guilio Nuccio'.

On the way back from the front yard, we passed through the apple orchard and the grape arbors. Ken's experience with agri-chemicals shows here. His apple trees are so heavily loaded with fruit till some of the limbs are propped up to keep them from breaking. He has many varieties of apples, some of them very old varieties. Over the years, when he would hear of an apple tree that had been producing satisfactorily over several generations (and there are apple trees that do that), he would get a few scions and graft them just like grafting camellias. Now, he has an orchard filled with apple varieties that have withstood the test of time. He brought me a big Winn-Dixie paper bag and I filled it up without moving from my tracks. I don't know the name of the apple, but it's one that is good for pies and will keep for months. I did not see a single apple damaged in any way by a worm or an insect!

The grapes were just "coming in". Here again, Ken had many varieties, and all vines were just loaded with fruit! I had to sample them all and they were all delicious. Sudie picked me a box full to take home with me.

On our way back toward the greenhouses, we passed in front of an old country store. I do mean old! Ken bought it and had it moved to his back yard. He told me the history of it, as much as he knew. One thing for sure, it is at least 150 years old and possibly older. It has the wide pine board floors. The walls are also heart pine boards and battens. I did not measure the width of the boards, but from memory, I would

estimate about 16-18 inches wide with 1-by 2-inch battens. One interesting thing about these boards (and an indication of their age), they were planed with a hand plane. The counters also are very, very old and very beautiful. They too are of heart pine. The windows are the original ones with old, wavy glass panes. Ken and Sudie use the old store on special occasions like family gatherings for Christmas and Thanksgiving. Sudie also does her quilting out here!

Ken has two large greenhouses, but we won't talk about them. A greenhouse, after all, is just a greenhouse.

In front of the greenhouses was a row of very nice, bushy, healthy looking camellias in large containers. Ken told me that these were some of his air layers. They surely didn't look like run-of-the-mill air layers! These were nice plants, plants that you'd expect to pay \$10.00 to \$15.00 for if you saw them in a nursery.

We went on to look at his seedlings. The sight of his seedlings is enough to boggle the mind of any camellia grower. The seeds are planted directly into the ground, not sprouted in peat as most growers do. Therefore, his seedlings have tap roots that go on down, down, down. No need to worry about watering them! They are planted in rows about 100 feet long. They are far enough apart to walk between and there must be hundreds of these rows! They stretch practically to infinity! I asked Ken how far did his seedling patch extend, and he said: "See that last big pine down yonder? Right on this side of that big pine tree."

Ever now and then, you could see one with the top cut out of it. This indicated that it had bloomed and the bloom was worth further evaluation.

Ken does not get too excited when one of his seedlings produces a great flower. He tests it every way he knows. He even makes an air layer of the plant and grows it in the greenhouse as well. He says that he would hate to register a camellia that does well outside, and poorly in the greenhouse. He told me about a white formal double of his that is better than anything in its class for the outside, but it just will not open properly in the greenhouse. You can say good-bye to that white formal double!

I saw something else in Ken's yard that I should mention. Quite a few of us collect more camellias in containers than we can get in the greenhouse. What do you do with the surplus? Last year, I buried

almost 100 containers in the ground. Ken has a better idea. He builds an enclosure about 36 inches high of stacked concrete blocks (no mortar joints). He puts his new grafts inside and covers the top with old window sashes. Unless the temperature drops extremely low, this will protect the roots in the containers from freezing. If necessary, some light bulbs could be installed to protect them. The size and number of bulbs would be determined by the size of the enclosure.

I spent only a couple hours with Ken and Sudie, but could have spent all day. If either one of them ever says to you, "Come see us,"; "Y'all come," or anything slightly resembling an invitation, take 'em up on it. You'll have a wonderful visit.

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED

Tidewater Virginia is preparing for the biggest and best of all annual meetings (of ACS) at Norfolk, March 20-23. Headquarters will be at the Cavalier Hotel, at Virginia Beach. Special convention rates have been effected: \$9.00, single room; \$12.00 double room. The registration for the convention has been set at \$15.00.

American Camellia Quarterly,
Jan. 1952

Camellia cuttings and scions, 1½ cents up. Abbott's Sunny Knoll Nursery.

American Camellia Quarterly,
Oct. 1953

Fabulous camellia *reticulata* collection, \$1,000 per collection, less 10% with order. Collection consists of 15 magnificent varieties. Descanso Distributors, Inc.

American Camellia Quarterly,
Apr. 1951



Alfus Johnson, president of Gulf Coast Camellia Society. He and Bertha would make good members for Atlantic Coast, don't you think!

RANDOM THOUGHTS ON CAMELLIAS IN MY GARDEN

Dr. James Smart

Devon, England

1983 has been quite a remarkable year, at any rate, where I live in the western part of the United Kingdom, for blossoms on all types of plants.

After a wonderful display of daffodils and other early flowering bulbs, magnolias and cherries have been outstanding, and have remained in flower much longer than usual on account of continued cool, damp weather and very little sun to make the blossoms go over. The rhododendrons in my garden have exceeded anything they have ever done before, and the Himalayan species with large leaves and striking indumentum such as macabea-num, falconer, basilicum, etc. have had scarcely a shoot without a huge truss of magnificent flowers; one of the scented hybrids, Avalanche, Alpine Glow (calophytum x Loderi) has been covered with huge pink trusses which have produced fragrance throughout the entire area where it is situated, and now, on 11th of May, rhododendron 'Lady Alice Fitzwilliam' is just following on rhododendron Sesterianum in an area full of the tender scented white ones, which throw their fragrance for a long distance. The whole garden is a mass of scent from Skimmias, Viburnums, the scented balsam poplar, Populus candicans, which when in young growth, and particularly when the atmosphere is moist, pervades the air for 50 - 60 yards from where it is growing. People do not think that a tree which is not in flower can have a powerful scent and it is amusing to see visitors to the garden sniffing every flower in sight and being puzzled when they

cannot track it down.

This preamble brings me to the one demerit from which the camellia still suffers. Although there are a number of scented species, and some of the hybrids now being produced have quite a fragrance when the individual bloom is sniffed, I fear that it will be a long time before the plant projects its scent so that it may be appreciated when passing the bush in the open garden without necessarily approaching it. Many people in the camellia world are crossing scented japonicas with one or another of the species or with other scented japonicas and are getting some success with the individual bloom, and in a small way, I have been trying this too. I use 'My Darling' as the seed parent and cross it with various other japonicas. The best of these crosses have come from using 'Scentsation' as the pollen parent. Several of these crosses have had quite pretty blooms with a reasonably strong scent, but the bushes are too small at present to have enough flowers on them for one to assess whether there would be any impact from the distance. I shall hope to put *C. lutchuensis* pollen onto these crosses at some future date. Time is always the pressing factor when there are so many other things to do in the garden at that time of the year, most of them not connected with camellias. One camellia which scents my whole greenhouse for a long time is 'Spring Mist', a very charming, small, pale pink, paeony form with bronze young growth and a rather weeping habit. It is 'Snow Bell' x *luchensis*, raised by Dr. Clifford Parks.

Like all the other shrubs and trees that I mentioned in my preamble, camellias have gone to town in a big way this year. They have been absolutely superb both in quantity of flowers and in the quality of the individual bloom. Many of them have had blooms superior in quality to the same variety grown in the greenhouse. This is the first time that this has ever occurred. I cannot quite understand why 1983 season has been so good, as we did not have a very good summer in 1982 and very little hot sun to ripen the wood. Perhaps a rather severe drought in April and May, 1982, and the mild winter just passed may have contributed somehow.

I have been enjoying this spring particularly. For the last two months, I have had a succession of blooms on plants which have never flowered for me before. These have come from cuttings received from friends in the United States, Australia, and New Zealand as well as from the United Kingdom. I grow all my plants from cuttings and do no grafting, and am not of those who require the latest introduction immediately. I am quite happy to wait. A plant that has bloomed for the first time in my garden is a new flower to me even if it is quite a number of years old in the nomenclature book.

I find it impossible to tell what a camellia bloom will be like until I see it grown in my own climatic conditions. Many cultivars behave completely differently in different areas, as between the United States and England. Flowers over here usually have a greater number of petals. A semi-double in America will usually be an anemone or paeony form over here. Also there appears to be an unfortunate tendency amongst camellia growers, or at any rate, members of camellia societies, to regard the show bench as being the ulti-

mate in assessing the merit of a new plant. The result of this can often be that the bloom is badly presented on the bush, and it is worthless as a garden plant. Many examples of this situation where heavy, rather blowsy blooms hang down and do not show themselves. I remember well my first introduction to Jack Jones, the owner of that fine garden in Savannah, Georgia. I was just emerging from lying flat on my back under a bush of 'Mrs. D.W. Davis' in order to photograph a bloom. 'Drama Girl' springs to mind as a large, blowsy bloom, too heavy for its stem. But I forgive it this fault since the time that I have grown it as a standard on a 4-5 foot stem with the visual effect of a standard rose tree. To me, a camellia should be able to stand up against any other shrub in the garden in its own right, for its year round attractiveness, its habit, its leaf, and the way it presents its flower. From this point of view, the hybridisers are helping in a great way. Due to the time of year that camellias bloom, bad weather often hits its flower, and I for one simply do not have the time to go around removing the unsightly damaged ones. The self-grooming hybrids are a great help here. We are fortunate in this country inasmuch as we do not as yet have petal blight. The question of whether the blooms shatter or not is not of any crucial importance to us.

In the greenhouse, the presentation of the bloom does not matter so much, and I grow and enjoy such flowers as 'Mrs. D.W. Davis' and 'White Nun' for their value as cut flowers in the winter months. One great pleasure that I get out of camellias is that when the rest of the garden is closing down for the winter, and depression is setting in, then the buds of the camellia are showing signs of swelling. The pros-

pect of spring being just around the corner lightens the spirit. I keep a large number of camellias in a greenhouse, and for a number of years used to show them at the Royal Horticultural Society's shows in London with quite a bit of success.

I never really enjoyed showing camellias however, and find that a camellia bloom soon loses its attraction in my eyes when sitting on the show bench in company with many others. In fact, I very nearly gave up growing camellias altogether, after seeing a succession of 200 or more 'Tomorrows' nestling in their tooth mugs and staring up at me at show after show overseas. I do not think that this criticism applies at all in the same way where sprays of camellias are shown instead of individual blooms. I do appreciate that exhibiting sprays of camellias would be far more difficult, especially for those exhibitors who live at a distance from the place of the show. When societies are talking about increasing their membership by emphasis on the show, I sometimes wonder if they are not producing almost a disincentive, and whether greater membership could not be secured by encouraging visits to gardens where camellias could be seen growing under more natural conditions alongside other plants, and tempting them to feel that they too could grow as good plants themselves. Super specialisation can result in super saturation and eventually to satiation.

In pointing out what I consider one or two defects in some of the new camellias, I do not intend to knock the camellia as a shrub. It still remains one of my favourite plants. I wish sometimes that more information were available as to the habit of the plant. A fastidious plant, such as 'Anticipation', 'E.G.

Waterhouse', etc., is particularly valuable in the planning of a garden. The rather architectural shape of 'Lady Clare' as she grows in the United Kingdom, is of much value in some situations, but it is difficult if not impossible to get a listing of cultivars with this quality, whereas every detail of the flower itself is always known.

In this country, as opposed to the United States, 'Donation' stands out as a supremely good shrub, for its habit, its consistent and profuse blooming every year from the very beginning.

Having mentioned one or two camellias with which I find fault, perhaps I may be allowed to conclude with the mention of a few that I find entirely delightful. There are so many of these that I can only touch on two or three that have given me particular pleasure this year. Firstly, some of the miniatures: 'Wilamina', 'Little Bit', 'Tammia', and particularly 'Kitty'; and the small flowered 'Black Tie'. Another which I have enjoyed this year is 'Bob Hope', both under glass where it is a semi-double with golden stamens and in the garden where it is the same colour but rather smaller and of paeony form. I like these deep red colours. Another which has given me much pleasure over many years is 'Margaret Davis', with its pink picotee edge. I find that this is one of the most admired by visitors to my garden. A lot of the higos sent to me by Mr. Andoh from Japan have flowered this year. I find them attractive, but a large number appear to be very similar in appearance to each other. I shall be eliminating some of these. Among the japonicas, I particularly enjoyed 'Easter Morn', 'Desire', 'In the Pink', 'Dr. Burnside', 'Sea Foam' and 'Nuccio's Gem'. Hybrids which have done well for

continued on page 23

GROWING 'EM vs PLANTING 'EM

Rupie Drews Charleston, SC

Several years ago, a neighbor wanting to borrow a shovel from me indicated that he had recently purchased several camellia plants and that he was going to grow camellias. I told him that he might PLANT camellias, but it takes more than a shovel to GROW them.

Thousands of people in the Charleston area plant camellias because so many think it is a southern or social must. However, it's truly a shame that only a few grow them. It would be wonderful if everyone would grow them for the love of the plant and the beauty of the flower rather than the social status they think it might bring.

Last year while I was speaking to one of our local garden clubs on how I grow camellias, I facetiously told them if you can't grow them in Charleston, they ought to asphalt their yards.

There are several natural factors that we have in the Low Country that are conducive to growing healthy camellias. They are:

1. Located near the same latitude as the camellia's natural habitat.
2. Mostly sandy soil for good drainage.
3. High humidity.
4. An average rainfall of over 45 inches per year.
5. An abundance of pine trees for filtered shade.

Fortunately, our yard is on a "hill" with lots of tall pines. A hill in Charleston is when your lot is 5 feet higher than your neighbor's. So not only do we have good soil, but also a slope which provides additional drainage. Good drainage is foremost. Without it, other important practices are meaningless.

I normally plant my camellias starting in November. I dig a shallow hole in which I put a mixture of ½ pine bark mulch and ½ building sand for additional drainage.

Why drainage, drainage, drainage? Because I water, water, water. And you cannot water, water, water without good drainage. Remember, the camellia bloom is 95 percent water.

I don't use "city" water, but well water which I believe is high in mineral content because of its beige color. However, I have never had it analyzed.

I really don't expect to get show blooms the first year I place a plant into the ground. The first year, all I want is survival. Don't have high expectations the first year.

For the past 25 years and up until last year, I had been using 16-4-8 with iron (regular southern lawn fertilizer) in early March and again in late June. I also use 0-14-14 in late October. Now let me tell you a true story:

In December of 1982, I gave a friend of mine four two-year-old air-layers that were approximately 18 inches tall and about 4 ounces of Osmacote with instructions. As of August 1983, a 'Julia France' measured 6 feet, 11 inches tall! Needless to say, this past February I completely changed from the commercial 16-4-8 to Osmacote. The 18-6-12 is good for 9 months and with 0-14-14, I feel that I have a complete yearly feeding program with only two applications.

I used Cygon when it first hit the market. Then one year I had zero grafts to take. I blamed Cygon, and

continued inside back cover

A SALUTE TO
The Oldies
 Regular Feature

Frank Sutton Norfolk, VA

Our involvement with camellias has been for a very short time compared with many. It all came about when we moved into Charlie Mason's neighborhood some 15 years ago. The limited land area available on our property was practically all covered with camellia seedlings and azaleas. These we removed to make it more presentable. That's where Charlie came in. He started off by presenting us with several plants from his crop. Then we put in some sixty airlayers, some old and some of the later varieties. From the start, the oldies gave the wife and me more pleasure because those

were the ones that won us the most blue ribbons. At first it was 'Adolphe Audusson', 'Don Mac', 'Flowerwood' and 'Guest of Honor' together with 'Kitty' and 'Purity'. Our real joy however, has always come from the small varieties. So we feel now as if we had hit the jack pot this past spring. Our society held their show at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens where our 'Kitty' won best small outside and our 'Purity' was runner-up best white outside. So we say, do not give up on the oldies by any means, neither on the smalls, mediums or large ones.

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OUTDOOR CAMELLIAS FOR THE PIEDMONT

Allen Kemp Mooresville, NC

I have never had a list of my favorite camellias for outdoor growing in the Piedmont Carolinas, but I do now. The list has been divided into three groups as follows:

Early	Mid-Season	Late
Debutante	Governor Mouton	Brilliant
Daikagura	Lady Clare	Duchess of Sutherland
High Hat	Lindsay Neill	Kumasaka
Kick Off	Professor Sargent	Mathotiana
Pink Perfection	Rev. John Drayton	Pink Champagne

Debutante and Pink Perfection are probably the best known of the early ones, and if they are gibbed in August or early September, they will really put on a show for you in early October and November. Simply let Jack Frost have the rest of the blooms on these two. High Hat will put on a show of its own in October and November with gib or without it. Kick Off is slightly later than High Hat and responds better with gib. Daikagura is another good one and responds real well to gib.

The mid-season group presents more of a problem. You know that you are going to lose a good many blooms to the cold weather, but consider the fact that you do not have any other blooms at this season, therefore the few that you do have will be a big plus. Governor Mouton is probably the most hardy of the lot, and it always produces some blooms that are not damaged at all. Lady Clare always has a few really great blooms. Dr. John Drayton is one of the very best. It produces a number of good blooms all through the winter, and it will surprise you with its various forms. Lindsay Neill is one of the lesser known varieties, but if you will try it, you will be pleased by its performance. Each of these mid-season bloomers will save a number of buds for the spring extravaganza.

The late group generally holds back their buds until March. They are spectacular. You may lose a few blooms during a cold snap, but a week later you will forget all about it because a new group will open up and put on another show.

Every variety in this list has proven its superiority over the years.



You can do more for your camellias before you plant them than you can ever do thereafter. Given its few simple fundamental requirements, it will live and thrive and please you.

Mr. J.S. Howard
Pied-Cam Review, Vol II, No. 3

RANDOM THOUGHTS

Cont. from page 20

me have been 'Joan Trehane', 'Phyllis Austin', 'Leonard Messel' and finally 'Royalty', all of which present their flowers so well on the bush.

IN AND AROUND THE GREENHOUSE

James H. McCoy

Fayetteville, NC

We all know that we can keep a scion in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for several weeks, or perhaps several months, graft it and expect good results. But did you know that the "refrigerator" part might not be necessary? On April 6, of this year, I took some scions out of the refrigerator which had been there in a plastic bag for several weeks. I took them down to the greenhouse and made several grafts. One scion did not have the name on it and I did not graft it. I put it back in the plastic bag and sealed it. I intended to put it back in the refrigerator and keep it just in case I needed it later. Though I did not know what it was, I did know that it was something good. I forgot it! I found it on the table in the greenhouse more than a month later, May 8. The scion looked good so I decided to graft it and see if it would take. It did! I took the cloche off June 23. The scion was refrigerated for several weeks, then left for more than a month unrefrigerated in the greenhouse where the temperature often reached 100 degrees. F.

Have you ever had an aluminum name tag to just **disappear** from a camellia? I'm sure you have if you use them for your outside camellias. You would expect to find them on the ground somewhere in the vicinity of the plant if the wind or something else knocked it off. But when it just disappears, it sets you to wondering: "Did I have a tag on this plant or not?" Chances are that you did and a Blue Jay stole it! There is something about aluminum tags on plants that attract Blue Jays. I recently watched one trying his best to get one of my tags off. I was amused at his efforts and was expecting to see him succeed and tri-

umphantly carry off my tag. The name tags on my plants are for posterity. I know the names of my camellias without referring to the tags. I heard Robert Holmes describe recently what he found when the wind blew a Blue Jay's nest out of a tree at his home. The nest was full of aluminum name tags from his camellias!

Are camellias suitable as house plants? The first reaction to such a question from any camellia grower would be a resounding "NO!" But wait a minute. There is a story in the 1951 ACS yearbook, which is doubtless true, about a plant of 'Alba Plena' which has been grown in a container for 96 years! The last 50 years it has wintered in the Johnson Public Library in Hackensack, New Jersey. This plant spent the first 46 years of its life as a house plant belonging to the Williams family, prominent in early Hackensack. It was given to the library in 1905. It was about 36 inches tall by about the same in width at the time this account was written. It was repotted at intervals of two or three years. It was set outdoors in the summer and brought back indoors in mid-October. It was watered every other day. It set many buds every year but most of them dropped off before opening. The container holding this 96 year old camellia is a 12 inch clay pot.

The editor has received several inquiries lately as to a source for containers for camellias. I will be pleased to pass on what information I have. I have in the past ordered and used containers from Carcan, Hialeah, Florida; Lerio, Mobile, Alabama; Zarn and I.E.M. Plastics, Reidsville, North Carolina. At pres-

ent, I am using plastic containers from I.E.M. This does not mean how-ever, that I like them better than containers from the other 3 sources. Here are some addresses. A post card will bring information as to prices.

The Lerio Corp., P.O. Box 2084,
Mobile, Al 36601

I.E.M. Plastics, Inc., P.O. Box 1953,
Reidsville, NC 27320

Zarn, Inc., P.O. Box 1350,
Reidsville, NC 27320

I no longer have the address of Carcan in Hileah, Florida.

A couple years ago, an acquaintance convinced me not to spray my greenhouse camellias for scale, as I was in the habit of doing in the spring and in the fall. I have not sprayed them for two years now. Occasionally, I find a plant with a small amount of scale and I work on that plant immediately. But as a general practice, I have quit spraying my container plants for scale. The outside plants I still treat for

scale, but not by spraying. I am so afraid that the insecticide will in some way get on my skin (when I spray my wife's roses) and cause cancer! I am still treating my outside plants, approximately 100, not counting the seedling patches, with full strength Cygon. After reading the article by Mr. Albert M. Laessle in the ACS Journal for January 1970, where he described the treatment he gave his plants of 'C.M. Wilson', I have been less fearful of damaging my plants. I have been treating many branches on the large plants by painting a ring around them. No damage noted yet and my big plants are finally free of tea scale! When the inspector from the State Dept. of Agriculture came around as he always does in September to inspect my plants for evidence of disease and/or insect infestation, I challenged him to find any scale on **any** of my plants. He did, on 2 or 3 seedlings in dense shade in the edge of the woods. But he congratulated me on my very **clean** plants.



Ex editor of Carolina Camellias, Tita Heins, and her asistant, Charlie.

Trained Camellia Plant Forms

Barbara Butler

Modesto, CA

Editor's note: This is part of a paper presented by the author at the International Camellia Society's Congress at Sacramento, CA, March, 1983.

THE STANDARD STYLE CAMELLIA

The Standard Style is a plant whose trunk is trained to stand without support, at the top of which a small, round-headed tree-form is allowed to develop in the French formal style of garden plants.

In training the camellia standard, its trunk or stem is grown to the desired height before flowering branches are allowed to develop, and to grow into a head. With camellias, the object is to increase the attractiveness of the camellia specimen through formality and uniformity. This achievement depends on frequent and intelligent attention on the part of the gardener, so as to prevent the development of branches where they are not wanted, and to encourage it where desired. This means checking rampant growth where it is not wanted so that a perfect, rounded head at the top of the trunk is formed. The term Standard indicates that this type of shaped specimen when mature will stand without support of any kind, except the straight unbranched trunk that carries a definite head at its summit. Training may make this head more or less globular-pyramidal, oval-oblong, or other form. The mature standard type trained camellia specimen is most useful in landscape design when featured as a small evergreen flowering tree, as a patio specimen, accent potted plant, or as a focal point at an entryway or porch.

Camellias can be trained in almost any desired form. The Standard camellia tree-like form is accomplished by tying the single stem

to a stake and preventing the development of branches below the point decided upon for the head. The suppression of such branches should occur just as the buds are starting to develop shoots. Standard form camellias are often created by grafting a desired camellia scion at the top of the trunk of the understock camellia at the desired height that one wishes the trunk to be.

In training camellia standards, symmetrical form is the object. Thus, the top branching stems are best pinched when soft, short and succulent. Each pinch must be just above a leaf stem so as to compel the bud in the angle of the leaf stock to grow. One may take advantage of the position of the outermost bud, to expand or contract the camellia's size, or to fill in gaps between branches. If the outermost bud left on a pinched branch is on the underside, the new shoot will tend to grow somewhat downward and outward before ascending, thereby tending to widen the camellia head. Conversely, if the bud is on the upper side, the shoot developed from it will incline inward toward the center of the camellia plant, then upward and more or less parallel within the central axis of the camellia plant. This tends to make the camellia plant more compact and erect. When the uppermost bud is on the side of the stem, the shoot developed from it will extend on that side, tending to fill in any gap between its parent branch and the one nearest to it on the same side.

To have your camellia plant de-

velop most effectively demands considerable care, experience and skill in pinching and disbudding, so as to have the camellia standard develop symmetrically and bloom abundantly and uniformly. In some cases, it may be necessary to use wire forms with radiating ribs or circles or other set forms to tie the camellia branches in the position desired. The simple or special style frames can easily be made at home or bought already made.

TOPIARY CAMELLIAS

Topiary camellias are defined properly as any artificially shaped camellia used in landscape gardening, such as sheared hedges or clipped shrubs. The term usually denotes the elaborate forms and designs into which camellia shrubs are shaped as a result of properly clipping them for many years. This work is usually seen in very old gardens. Constant clipping from the time the camellia is young is necessary to make it thick and uniform. The small leaf, dense-foliage type of camellia is best suited to this type of training. Certain japonica, sasanqua and species camellia varieties are best suited to topiary style.

THE ESPALIER CAMELLIA

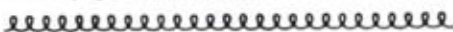
Espalier is the term used for a trellis or lattice on which a camellia is trained, and for the camellia plant so managed. Espalier training has the advantage of saving space, of giving camellias the maximum care and shelter, and producing high quality camellia show flowers. Espalier camellias are most useful in small gardens with east or north exposure. They are most effective when used to cover walls or fences along property lines.

When using the espalier system of training camellias, one should select young camellia plants of the varieties, colors, and growth habits

suiting to your climate, location and taste. These camellias can be trained on espalier trellis of bamboo or redwood placed either in the ground or used within a large tub for potted camellias.

The camellia branches are restricted to a definite symmetrical number or pattern and are trained in a single plane parallel to the support, either horizontally, vertically, or in diagonal directions. The branching is started low and by constant heading back, pinching out of unwanted shoots and tying of stems to the trellis, the desired form and design of branches is developed. The flower buds are allowed to form on selective terminals at uniform and pleasing intervals.

This training and spacing of flower buds results in giving all the camellia flowers maximum light, air, and a perfect habitat to produce excellent show flowers. An espalier camellia is a show stopping accent in any garden design.



Five year old Mary Ann was visiting her grandparents for a few weeks. There had been much talk of a trip to Orlando to visit Disney World and other attractions. One morning at breakfast time Mary Ann volunteered to say the blessing. She began, "God is great, God is good. Let us thank Him for this food. By His hand we all are fed. Give us Lord our daily bread. God bless Mommy and Daddy, and bless Grandma and Granddaddy, and bless us on our trip to — on our trip to — Wait a minute, God. **Where** are we going, Granddaddy?"



ON BEING SHORT

Lena Watson

Charlotte, NC

"Everything is beautiful in its own way" goes the popular song that's the truth. This should apply to everything and everybody. A fine young fellow once said, "There's no such thing as an ugly woman, the Lord just made some of them prettier than others." According to some survey results I've heard, short people are not too likely to rate very high in any survey. Can you believe that Napoleon's aggressive and mean nature was due to being a short man? An expert(?) in the field of psychology says being short causes a feeling of inferiority and only this behavior compensates for the lack of height. He did not say anything about the height of Hitler, Stalin, Attila the Hun and many other infamous people. Maybe Ma Barker and even Jezebel were short women. Seems to me that just the opposite attitude would be more sensible because having short legs means that you can't run as fast, so why antagonize other people? Oh well, who says the experts are always right.

I don't believe everything I read, but I must admit there are cases that do mention height. Remember when the children of Israel kept on nagging Samuel to find them a king? God told Samuel to choose Saul who stood head and shoulders taller than everybody else. I know that is going way back, but that story always impressed me very much. None of the above mentioned ended up very well regardless of how tall or short he or she happened to be. I have decided that almost anything can be printed as gospel truth if they say it is the result of a survey or study by a

group of experts, using that term loosely of course. Not long ago a study turned up the startling fact that the person most likely to become a success is a tall, blond male. Being the opposite of all those things, I turned off the radio immediately. You must be a certain height to be a model, police woman, even a private in the army. It's just as well that I didn't really want to be any of those things anyway.

Being short (or does lack of height sound more sophisticated?) does have many disadvantages. If there is a gorup picture made, you know who has to be on the front row, no matter how tacky you know you look. When you shop for something to wear, the first thing the saleslady says is "This will have to be shortened" as if I haven't heard it for years. One of the worst things is grocery shopping because many items are on shelves that only a basketball player can reach. I wait until there is nobody else in the aisle. Feeling like a criminal, I climb up on the bottom shelf, make a grab for whatever I need and as I step down with my prize, usually eight other boxes come tumbling down with it. By this time the aisle will have a dozen people in it to watch you pick it up and try to throw the extras back in place. This tends to develop muscle in all the wrong places. Parades are something else. Here you play a guessing game — guess what is going by. You hear a band playing and see a flag waving, but until parades were televised, I didn't see that fellow carrying that flag or realize there were horses under those men who seemed to be sailing along in thin air. A small child can avoid this ignorance by crawling around be-

tween the legs of obliging adults who are usually tall. Especially unpleasant was getting a driver's license and it was about as near as I've come to proving the experts right about our mean, belligerent nature. The officer in charge has never won a "Mr. Congeniality" contest. We did all right though until he said my legs were too short to reach the brakes and gas and forthwith wrote "seat cushion" as a legal requirement. Only my good nature kept him from being found in a ditch somewhere.

It would certainly be a lovely world if all women were the same size (tall and beautiful) and all men were very handsome and at least six feet tall, but I wonder if it would become monotonous. The Guinness Book is filled with records of all kinds, but the "Bigger is Better" idea is not always true. Short people probably do command little respect, but let me proudly point to General Tom Thumb who was made famous by P.T. Barnum, A fellow once said you can't grow any taller just by wishing any more than you can come back from where you ain't been. So, we will just hang in there and keep reaching!



GROWING 'EM

Cont. from page 21

changed back to Oil-I-cide that I had been using prior to Cygon. Recent research by Dr. Luther Baxter indicated that I had unjustly blamed Cygon. I don't have any scale, but I do spray with oil in early spring strictly for a preventive maintenance program.

After reading this article, I hope you don't asphalt your yard.

ANN BROWN'S PRAYER

Ed. Note: Given in Mobile at 1983 convention of Gulf Coast Camellia Society.

Dear Heavenly Father, once again we come together as friends. We're grateful that you have given us this beautiful flower that has brought us here. We're ever mindful of the beautiful world that You have created and have allowed us to share.

Dear Heavenly Father, we would particularly ask Your blessing on those who are here. We also ask that You remember those who could not be here this time. Many friends who have joined us in the past but, due to illness, cannot be with us today.

Dear Heavenly Father, the flower that You gave us reflects the love that You have given to us. May we ever be aware that love can only grow if we pass it on to others.

Dear Heavenly Father, we are once again reminded that through Your love for us, a life that touched us is no longer with us. Be with the family of Marge Marice. We remember with pleasure our many times together. Grieving would not be showing love to You. But we give You praise that her life touched ours.

May all that we do, may all that we say, may all that we reflect with one another be to Your honor and praise.

In Your name we ask this prayer. Amen.



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